



County of Fresno

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April 14, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building, 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Local Authority to Cancel Penalties or Charges for Property Tax Non-Payment Related to COVID-19

Dear Governor Newsom:

Thank you for understanding the need to balance the hardships faced by homeowners, small businesses, and other property owners due to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the importance of property tax payments to counties, cities and schools that provide critical services to all California residents. Your statement on April 4, 2020 regarding this matter was greatly appreciated, and it reflects your deep understanding of our fiscal obligations.

We support the Tax Collectors' authority to use existing authority to cancel penalties and other charges for homeowners, small businesses, and other property owners that are unable to pay their property taxes due to circumstances caused by COVID-19.

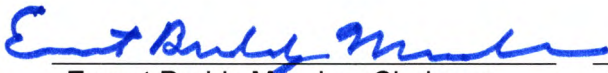
The Fresno County Board of Supervisors plans to coordinate closely with our Auditor-Controller/Treasurer-Tax Collector Oscar Garcia as the County moves forward after April 10 to help those property owners who could not pay timely as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We stand committed to ensuring that penalty relief is provided when we can lawfully provide it, and we will look to your leadership in those cases where there is a legitimate need for relief that the County may not be able to legally provide. Should those legal barriers materialize as we work to help individual taxpayers secure penalty waivers, we will communicate those specific barriers to you and your staff, so that we can quickly address our taxpayers' needs. We understand that this is a very stressful time, and that many Californians have been and will be financially harmed by this crisis. We will work tirelessly to help our constituents and taxpayers recover quickly and plan to provide as much relief as we can.

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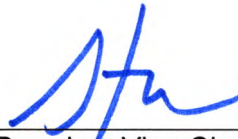
Thank you for your steady, thoughtful and informed leadership on this issue and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

Fresno County Board of Supervisors



Ernest Buddy Mendes, Chairman



Steve Brandau, Vice-Chairman

cc: Fresno County Board of Supervisors
Fresno County Legislative Delegation
Oscar Garcia, Auditor-Controller/Treasurer-Tax Collector
Paul Yoder, Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties